

WYOMING STATE FAIR

Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2005

Chair Tammy Barkhurst called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Advisory members present: Kenny Taylor, Tammy Barkhurst, Jim Schiermiester, Dudley Booth, Howard Gernant, Ron Pulse, Johnathan Despain, Bryce Reece, Criss Crozier, WSF Director Barney Cosner, WSF Asst. Director Vicki Rupert, WDA Deputy Director Jim Schwartz.

Guests: Gene Hardy with Board of Ag, Jaran Travis, Walter Cook, Steve James, Shawn Jeter, Debbie Bauman, Bruce Bauman, Doyle Meyer, Jim Meyer, Michelle Crozier, Stephanie Lofink, Warren Crawford, Laurie Peternal, Bruce Richardson, Steve Schafer, Bert Macy, Craig Spatz, Yvonne Ware, Wayne Tatman, Jill Klein, Heath Hornecker, Patti Griffith, Bob Chabot, Daveena Babcock and Kendall Bauman

Chairman Barkhurst stated that the tail docking meeting would start at 3:00 p.m. so at this time will turn it over to Director Cosner to go over the 2005 State Fair Fact Sheet that was distributed to the board (see attached).

Director Cosner briefly reviewed the 2005 Wyoming State Fair Fact sheet as a recap of the fair:

1. Total paid attendance was up 750 over 2004
2. Weather was basically good w/exceptions of Friday the 12th and Friday the 19th which had wind issues.
3. Had diverse entertainment for free stages, no major concert in 2005
4. Most livestock numbers were down due to exhibitors concerns with livestock housing
5. Total number of animal checked in through Animal Health were up; numbers included the roping steers and horses from the new RopeFest event.
6. Regional outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis cut equine exhibits
7. Home arts exhibits down
8. Llama show cancelled due to low entries and show overlaps.

Superintendent reports were handed out to the WSFAC, Director Cosner asked committee members to review and if questions/concerns/suggestions ready to present on Tuesday, September 20.

Jaran Travis with the Wyoming Livestock Board reported there was 100% compliance with scrapie tags. Director Cosner stated that the USDA rule requires all goats and sheep must have a scrapie tag (there are some modifications to allow neck chains and/or tattoos for certain goat breeds) for competition. Information is available at county extension offices and the Wyoming livestock board. Bryce Reece stated that Dr. Duncan with APHIS, USDA is working on an incentive program for counties to tag for scrapie at weigh-ins prior to June 1.

Jim Schiermiester voiced his concern with the number of junior livestock exhibitors being down, if youth numbers are down then adult (open) exhibitor numbers will follow. Tammy Barkhurst replied that some exhibitors did not come this year due to concern about there being no barn. The new Livestock Pavilion is scheduled to be done in December, 2005 with a Grand Opening in the spring of 2006 and/or a Grand Opening during State fair. Director Cosner stated that the new multi-purpose center was well received but WSF only had temporary occupancy use of building;

building was not complete, air vent system was not ready and completion will not be done until October 30, 2005.

Chairman Barkhurst asked for approval of August 20th minutes, moved to accept by Howard Gernant, seconded by Jim Schiermiester, motion carried.

Barney discussed the 2006 State Fair requests and recommendation as follows:

Looking at charging one price that will cover gate and event, looking at where carnival will be located and possibly moving days and times of events to fill in where needed. Many of WSF contracts are up for bid, (ranch rodeo, PRCA rodeo) will need to look at those and time slots available.

Chairman Barkhurst called for a 10 minute recess.

Meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m. Lucy Hanson and Jim Fitzgerald with Wyoming Mediation, were introduced, they will be mediating for the tail docking issue, will try to help resolve the issue and develop a plan.

Attendees presented pro or con information/comments (see attached letters) regarding the WSF tail docking policy. After nearly three hours of discussion, specific points of common agreement were then followed to reach a compromise with the following options resulting:

1. Any market lamb that has been extreme docked will be disqualified from all classes. Extreme docking (complete tail removal) is not an acceptable animal practice.
2. Every sheep that shows at the Wyoming State Fair must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a veterinarian which has a doctor/client relationship with the owner of the animal and which attests to the fact that the animal has at a minimum three (3) coccygel vertebrae in place. Dudley Booth recommended that a veterinary inspection should be included in the final resolution.

Jim Schiermiester moved to use "Every sheep that shows at the Wyoming State Fair must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a veterinarian which has a doctor/client relationship with the owner of the animal and which attests to the fact that the animal has at a minimum three (3) coccygeal vertebrae" as the 2006 WSF policy, seconded by Bryce Reece. Discussion: Barney recommended press releases be sent out stating that the policy will be in place prior to the 2006 Wyoming State Fair. The motion unanimously carried.

Being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hopkins